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**LEEK RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

and the

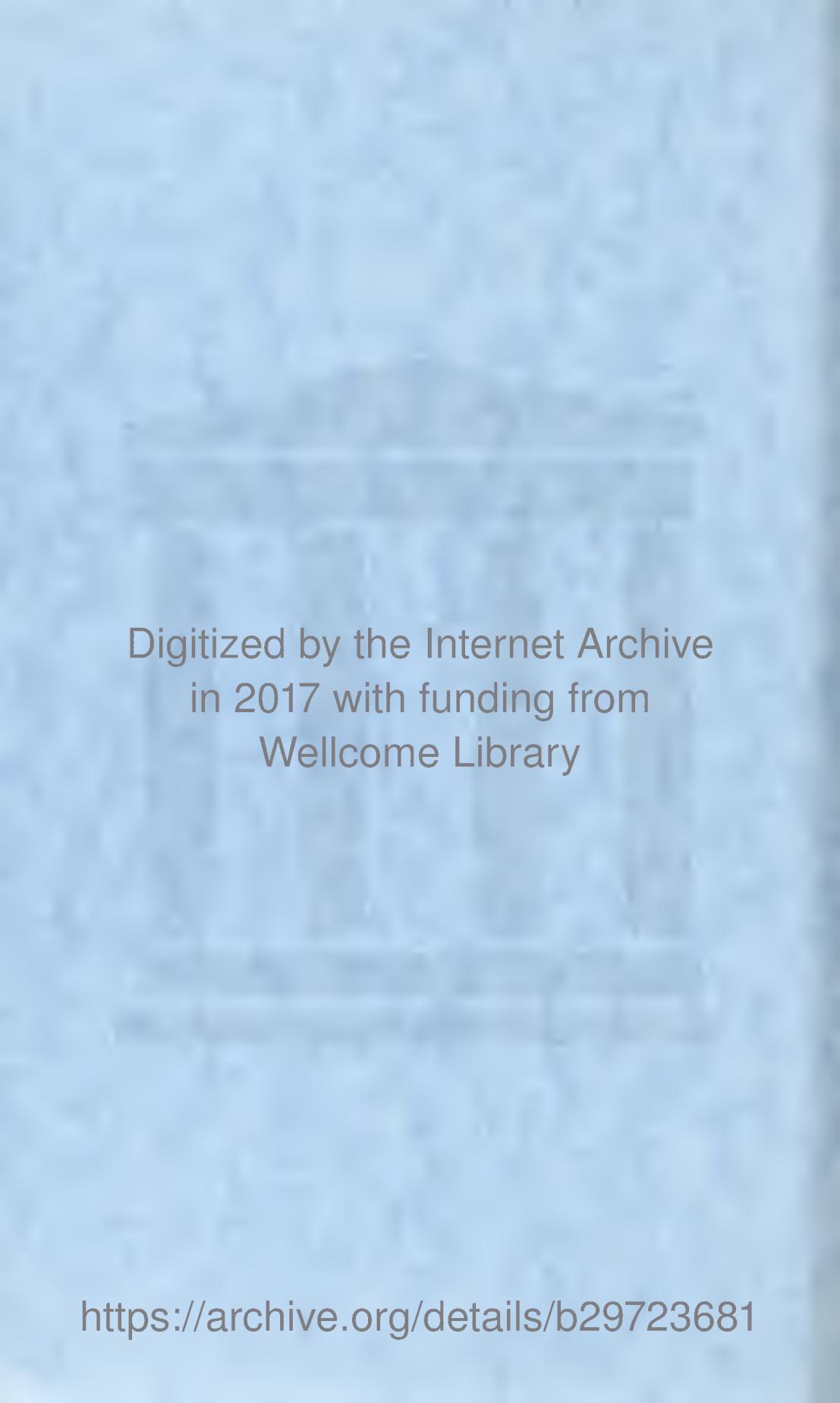
**SANITARY INSPECTOR**

for the year 1955

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**December 1956**

Hill Bros. (Leek) Ltd., Haywood Street, Leek.

A faint, grayscale background image of a classical building, possibly a temple or a large library, featuring multiple columns and a prominent pediment at the top. The building is centered and serves as a subtle backdrop for the text.

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# LEEK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1955

### **Chairman:**

OUNCILLOR ROBERT W. CRITCHLOW

### **Vice-Chairman:**

OUNCILLOR C. R. HEWLETT

### **Members:**

Councillor Rev. W. T. D. Attoe	Councillor Major T. Harvey
„ W. Axon	„ Mrs. M. A. Marshall
„ J. Bennison	„ H. Mear
„ A. Buckley	„ T. Riley
„ T. W. Buxton	„ J. Rushton
„ J. L. Findlow	„ P. Smith
„ J. W. Grindan	„ J. G. Stubbs
„ R. G. Grindon	„ E. Tittertan
„ H. Hammond	„ A. Wood
„ J. Harrison	

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## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

### **Medical Officer of Health:**

H. KELSO WATSON, M.B., Ch.B.

### **Sanitary Inspector:**

D. K. PEDLEY, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., Certified Food Inspector

### **Additional Sanitary Inspector:**

1. SPENCER, Cert. R.S.I. (Appointed October 1955)

### **Clerk**

MISS B. J. WOOLRIDGE

# REPORT

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	72,623	acres
Number of inhabited houses	5,144	
Rateable Value	65,391	
Sum represented by penny rate	£254/11/6	
Estimated Population	17,650	
Number of persons per acre	.24	

## INDUSTRIES

The main occupations of the inhabitants are farming and mining, but a substantial number of persons are employed in the silk mills in Leek, and in the quarries on the Derbyshire border.

## VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	M	F	TOTAL
Legitimate	123	109	232
Illegitimate	5	4	9
—	—	—	—
128	113	241	

Birthrate per 1,000 of the population—13.6

Stillbirths	M	F	TOTAL
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
—	—	—	—
2	2	4	

Rate per 1,000 of the population—.23

Deaths (all ages)	M	F	TOTAL
	90	87	177

Death rate per 1,000 of the population—10.0

Deaths of Infants (Under 1 year)	M	F	TOTAL
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	1	—	1
—	—	—	—
5	1	6	

Death rate per 1,000 live births—21.9

## TUBERCULOSIS

The table below shows the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year, and figures for the eight preceding years are given for comparison purposes.

	Pulmonary Tuberculosis			Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis			Total (Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary)		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1955	112	90	202	29	31	60	141	121	262
1954	111	88	199	30	32	62	141	120	261
1953	107	87	194	29	31	60	136	118	234
1952	106	80	186	27	30	57	133	110	243
1951	102	77	179	27	29	56	129	106	235
1950	99	74	173	31	30	61	130	104	234
1949	96	71	167	31	30	61	127	101	228
1948	78	66	144	31	29	60	109	95	204
1947	69	68	137	29	28	57	98	96	194

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The figures below show the Incidence of Infectious Diseases in 1955 in comparison to those of the three preceding years:

	1955	1954	1953	1952
Measles ... ... ...	190	180	54	254
Whooping Cough ... ...	22	114	35	39
Diphtheria ... ... ...	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ... ... ...	4	10	4	8
Scarlet Fever ... ... ...	8	16	18	15
Erysipelas ... ... ...	2	5	2	—
Cerebra-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ... ... ...	1	2	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	4	—	—	1
Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—
Pneum. Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ...	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ... ...	1	—	1	3
Total Cases ...	232	327	114	321

## Incidence of Infectious Diseases

Parishes	Measles	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Dysentery	Acute Poliomyelitis	Food Poisoning
Alstonefield	3	3	1					
Bagnall	1							
Bradnop								
Butterton	27	1						
Endon and Stanley	22	3	1	1	1			
Fawfieldhead	22	2						
Grindon	4							
Heathylee	1						1	
Heaton					1			
Hollinsclough	1						2	
Horton	1		1	3				
Ilam	5							
Leekfrith							1	
Longnor	2						1	
Longsdon	10							
Norton-in-the-Moors	66	1		2				
Onecate				1				
Quarnford		1	1					
Rushton	2	3				1		
Sheen		7						
Titteswarth	3			1				1
Warslow and Elkstones	20	1						
Wetton								
<b>Total</b>	190	22	4	8	2	1	4	1

## Months of Occurrence

January	27	7	1					
February	21	10		1				
March	43	2		3				
April	16		1					
May	11		1		1	1		
June	55	1						
July	11							
August	4		1				1	1
September	1	2			1			
October	1			1			2	
November			1	1			1	
December				1				
<b>Total</b>	190	22	4	8	2	1	4	1

## Age Incidence of Infectious Diseases

AGE GROUP	Measles		Whooping Cough		Pneumonia		Scarlet Fever		Erysipelas		Dysentery		Acute Poliomyelitis		Food Poisoning	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 Year	...	...	2	2	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 Years	...	...	50	44	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6—10 Years	...	...	37	36	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11—15 Years	...	...	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16—20 Years	...	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21—30 Years	...	...	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31—50 Years	...	...	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
51—70 Years	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 70 Years	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	...	...	104	86	10	12	2	2	3	5	1	1	—	—	3	1
TOTAL — Male and Female	...	...	199	22	—	—	4	—	8	—	2	1	—	—	4	1

## Causes of Death in Leek Rural District 1955

Causes of Death	Males	Females
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	2	—
Tuberculosis, Other	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2
Other malignant lymphotic neoplasms	4	13
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
Diabetes	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	21
Coronary disease, angina	15	10
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1
Other heart disease	21	16
Other circulatory disease	4	4
Influenza	1	—
Pneumonia	2	—
Bronchitis	3	2
Other disease of respiratory system	1	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	2
Congenital malformations	4	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	8
Motor Vehicle accidents	2	—
All other accidents	4	—
Suicide	—	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
Total — all causes	90	87

## Sanitary inspection of the Area —

### Summary of Visits

#### HOUSING:

(a) Inspection for defects	...	...	...	58
(b) Council House applicants	...	...	...	92
(c) Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	6
(d) Housing Inspections	...	...	...	207
(e) Improvement Grant applicants	...	...	...	142
				505

#### GENERAL:

Inspection of premises for nuisances	...	...	...	97
Food premises	...	...	...	25
Slaughterhouses and knackers' yard	...	...	...	877
Drainage inspections	...	...	...	122
Proposed drainage and conversions	...	...	...	63
Light Oaks and Brown Edge Seweroge	...	...	...	12
Water supplies—general	...	...	...	31
Samples of water taken	...	...	...	61
Shops	...	...	...	103
Refuse and nightsoil collection and disposal	...	...	...	66
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	16
Fumigations	...	...	...	13
Rodent control	...	...	...	37
Factories	...	...	...	4
Petroleum stores	...	...	...	9
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	58
				2099

#### NOTICES SERVED

1.	Informal Notices	...	...	162
	Statutory Notices	...	...	4
2.	(a) Number of Nuisances Remedied	...	87	
	(b) Number of defective dwellings rendered fit following service of Statutory and Informal notices	...	55	

## Water supplies

The district is served with water mains in the following areas:

Parishes of Endon and Stanley (part) Horton, and Longsdon (part) —Leek R.D.C. supply, the water being obtained in bulk from the Leek Urban District Council's Borehole at Pool End.

Parishes of Bagnall, Endon and Stanley (part) Longsdon (part) and Norton-in-the-Moors—Staffordshire-Potteries Water Board Supply.

In addition, the Council maintains small village supplies at Longnor, Grindon and Warslow. The quantity and quality of these supplies is being kept constantly under supervision and frequent sampling is carried out. It is hoped that the day is not far ahead when the Eastern Parishes water scheme, the first part of which was commenced in October, 1954, will replace these inadequate supplies.

Sixty-one samples of water were taken during the year for Bacteriological examination and twenty-one for Chemical Analysis.

The results of these are tabulated below:—

Source	Bacteriological Examination			Chemical Analysis		
	No. of Samples Taken	Fit	Unfit	No. of Samples Taken	Fit	Unfit
Well	13	3	10	7	4	3
Spring	43	24	19	11	8	3
Borehole	5	5	—	3	3	—
Total	61	32	29	21	15	6

Three analyses indicated that the water has plumba-solvent action, but as these samples were taken in respect of proposed supplies they were not proceeded with.

### Horton, Longsdon and Rudyard Water Scheme

It is again disappointing to report that applications have been surprisingly low, only 24 connections having been made during the year. This brings the total number of connections to-date as 135.

The properties supplied are:—

	Dwelling Houses	Farms and other Metered Supplies
Endon	3	—
Horton	71	32
Longsdon	21	8
	—	—
	95	40

## EASTERN PARISHES WATER SUPPLY. SECTION "A" PART 1

This scheme which was commenced in October, 1954, to supply the parishes of Ilam, Alstonfield and Wetton with a piped water supply made considerable progress during the year and by the end of December approximately 7 miles of main had been laid.

In view of the fact that the Contractors had much rock and heavy-going to contend with, the progress on this scheme has been most satisfactory.

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### Drainage and Sewerage

There were no extensions to the sewers or sewage disposal works completed during the year.

At the Endon Sewage Works the media was renewed to 1 filter bed and similar renewals are planned for the other two beds during next year. These works, as are the works at Baddeley Green and Norton Green, are sadly overloaded and additions and reconstructions are vital to meet the demands placed upon them. In the meantime, everything possible is being done to cope with the conditions existing.

In December, a commencement was made on the Sewerage schemes to serve the Light Oaks and Brown Edge (Sytch Rood) areas. These schemes, when completed and connections made, will obviously add to the problem of the overloaded disposal works referred to, particularly at Baddeley Green.

Several privy conversions were carried out in the parish of Norton-in-the-Moors and at Moss Hill, Stockton Brook, nine modern properties which drained to a communal septic tank were connected to the public sewer.

## Refuse, Nightsoil and Salvage Collection

The collection of refuse, nightsoil and salvage is carried out by direct labour in every parish.

During the year the Council's Hause Refuse Sub-Committee considered the re-organisation of the collection service, and as a result, an additional vehicle is to be brought into operation on the refuse collection round serving the parishes of Bagnall, Endon and Stanley, Harton, Langsdon and Norton-in-the-Maars. This area, which is vastly developing will now be served with three vehicles instead of two as hitherto. The other rounds remain as set out in last year's report.

A new tip at Gun End was established during the year and is adequate to serve the needs of the Meerbrook, Heaton and Rushton areas for a considerable time.

## HOUSING

## New Houses Erected During the Year

(a) By Local Authority—Nartan Green Site (2 houses, 16 flats)	18
Rudyard Site ... ... ... ...	8
(b) By National Coal Board—Baddeley Green Site ... ... ...	204
Brown Edge Site ... ... ... ...	58
(c) By Private Enterprise ... ... ... ...	123
	—
	411

## Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ... ... ... ...	195
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	207
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ... ... ...	56
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	63
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... ...	30
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ... ...	142

### REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers ... ... ...	55
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### ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

(a)	Proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1936 .	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1936, etc. ...	Nil
	Demolition Orders made ... ... ...	3
	Closing Orders made ... ... ...	14

### FACTORIES ACTS 1937 AND 1948

NUMBER OF FACTORIES ON REGISTER ... ... ...	29
NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS MADE ... ... ...	4

Only one factory is of any size. No contraventions were discovered during the inspections made.

A small number of autworkers are employed, chiefly by the Silk Manufacturers in Leek and are concerned with the finishing of wearing apparel.

## Improvement Grants

Number of applications received during the year ... ... ...	56
Number of Improvement Grants made in respect of:	
(a) Improvements to existing houses ... ... ...	44
(b) Conversion of buildings into living accommodation	2
Total cost of work involved qualifying for grant ... ...	£25,048
Total value of improvement grants approved ... ...	£11,095
Number of Improvement Grant applications refused ... ...	2
Number of Improvement Grant applications withdrawn ... ...	6
Number of Improvement Works completed during the year ...	39

Of the 46 grants approved, 36 were in respect of owner-occupied property and 10 in respect of tenanted property.

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## RODENT CONTROL

The Council provides a service of rat disinfestation to residential property and business premises, while the treatment of some of the farms in the area is carried out by the Agricultural Executive Committee under contract.

Several treatments were carried out during the year and in addition the Council's sewage works and refuse tips were serviced from time to time.

The public sewers are "test-baited" from time to time and treatments carried out as found necessary.

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## PETROLEUM ACTS

Forty-nine licences were issued for the bulk storage of 67,100 gallons of Petroleum spirit.

# MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

## Carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

Carcasses inspected	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	917	108	2851	839	—
Number inspected	917	108	2851	839	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci		1	1	—	—
Whole carcases condemned ... ...					—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	104	—	199	10	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	11.34	.9	7.0	1.2	—
<b>Tuberculosis only:</b>					
Whole carcases condemned ... ...	1	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	140	—	—	5	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... ...	16.3	—	—	.6	—
<b>Cysticercosis</b>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ... ...	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

## MEAT AND OFFAL CONDEMNED

Weight of Meat condemned due to:—

(a) Tuberculosis	... ... ...	... ... ...	3,588 lbs.
(b) Other diseases or conditions	... ... ...	... ... ...	2,412 lbs.
			6,000 lbs.

## OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED

One tinned ham (12lbs.); one tinned tongue (12ozs.); 30lbs. ham.

# FOOD INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION

## FOOD SHOPS AND PREPARING PREMISES

By-laws as to handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air are in operation in the Council's area.

Fifty-five shops are registered under the Act for the sole of Ice Cream.

## Food Poisoning Outbreaks

One case of food poisoning was notified during the year.

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## MILK SUPPLY

### THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS AND THE SPECIAL DESIGNATION REGULATIONS

(1)	No. of Distributors	...   ...   ...   ...   ...   ...   ...	23
(2)	No. of licences issued to sell—		
		Dealers	Supplementary
(a)	Tuberculin Tested Milk	...   ...   ...   ...   ...   ...   ...	1
(b)	Sterilised Milk	...   ...   ...   ...   ...   ...   ...	2
(c)	Pasteurised Milk	...   ...   ...   ...   ...   ...   ...	2
		—	—
		40	5

H. KELSO WATSON

Medical Officer of Health.

D. K. PEDLEY

Sanitary Inspector.







